

Remarks:

Claims 1-20 are pending in the current application. Claims 3, 18, and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 21-23 are new. No new matter has been added.

Drawings:

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner states that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims and that “the side outer end of the transverse reinforcement at least partially penetrating the B-pillar in claim 3 and the B-pillar at least partially penetrating the side outer end of the transverse reinforcement in claim 19 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).”

The Applicant has cancelled claims 3 and 19. Therefore, this objection is believed overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102:

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Shimoda.

The Examiner states that “Shimoda discloses the claimed invention including B-pillar 5, Side sill 1, transverse reinforcement 16 and plate element 13 which abuts the side outer end of transverse reinforcement 16.”

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 18. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the rejection of allowable claim 1 be withdrawn.

Likewise, claims 2, 5-14, and 20, which depend from allowable claim 1 are also allowable for at least the same reason that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103:

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimoda et al. in view of Inami et al.

The Examiner states the “Shimoda et al. disclose[s] the claimed invention including a plate like reinforcement member along the side of the vehicle body within the outer shell for reinforcing the vehicle body during side impacts.” The Examiner also states that “[t]he member has two solid undulating plates that are interconnected.” The Examiner further states that “Inami et al disclose[s] a reinforcement member positioned within an outer shell of the vehicle side for lateral impact reinforcement.” Finally, the Examiner states that “[t]he member includes an inner shell 20, an outer shell 22 and a zigzag reinforcing structure 14 therebetween.”

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 18. Claims 15-17 depend from allowable claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason that claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the rejection of allowable claims 15-17 be withdrawn

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 3, 4, 18, and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 18. The Applicant has added independent claim 21 which includes the limitations of claim 1 and allowable claim 4. As discussed above, claims 3 and 19 have been cancelled.


Claims 22 and 23 have been added and depend from allowable claim 21.

CONCLUSION:

All rejections and objections having been addressed, it is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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